

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1-5.

REMARKS

Figures 1-5 have been amended as required by the Examiner.

The title of the application has been amended as required by the examiner. The new title indicates the application is concerned with a mode door of air conditioning systems for automotive vehicles, which includes cars, trucks, buses, recreational vehicles, etc.

The Abstract has been amended to conform to US practice as required by the examiner.

The specification has been amended for clarity and to provide consistency with the claims as now submitted. The claims have been amended to overcome the rejection thereof under 35USC112, second paragraph, for clarity, to remove possible method limitations, and to assure infringement when the goods are sold and prior to use. In addition, the subject matter of claim 9 has been included in amended claim 1, claim 9 has been cancelled and claim 10 has been amended to depend on claim 1.

For the convenience of the examiner, applicants submit herewith a copy of a machine translation of Sumiya et al. (JP 08020218) that attorney for applicants obtained via the Internet from the Japanese Patent Office.

Amended claim 1 requires an outer circumferential wall of a turnable door to carry a door cover mounted inside an air conditioning case to closely contact a sealing member. The cover is located between the turnable door and the air conditioning case. The sealing member is continuously mounted to a surface of the door cover contacting the outer circumferential wall of the turnable door alongside a longitudinal direction of the turnable door. Fixing means secured to an inner area of the air conditioning case. Claim 10 indicates the fixing means secures the door cover to the air conditioning case.

Consideration of the translation indicates the office action includes misstatements about Sumiya et al. in the rejection of original claim 9. In particular, page 6 of the office action states Sumiya et al. includes door cover 10. However, paragraph 0007 of the DETAILED DESCRIPTION of the reference states reference numeral 10 is associated with a stowage door which does not correspond to the door cover of applicants'

former claim 9 or amended claim 1. Sumiya et al. indicates stowage door 10 is established in case member 1, but has no disclosure of a door cover, particularly a door cover that is carried by a door and is secured to an air conditioning case by a fixing means that is secured to an inner area of the air conditioning case, as amended claim 1 requires.

Sumiya et al and the admitted prior art of applicants' application have a high probability of air leakage. The Sumiya et al. structure is difficult to manufacture. Figure 10 of the reference indicates door 10 is divided at a sealing member for tightly coupling a left case member with a right case member. On the other hand, applicants' amended claim 1 requires the sealing member to be mounted on a surface of the door cover. Therefore, applicants' structure of claim 1 enables the turnable door to be continuously sealed without air leakage or the need for an additional division section air.

Based on the above, amended claim 1 and the claims depend on claim 1 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Sumiya et al..

Kamiya et al. (US 5,720,657), the secondary reference relied on in combination with Sumiya et al. to reject claim 10, does not disclose the above noted claimed features. Kamiya et al. discloses a film door being formed at a rotary door. This feature is part of Applicants' admitted prior art and suffers from the same problems as the admitted prior art of Figure 2 of the present application. That is, Kamiya et al. generates noise because a film member mounted on the door expands and turns in response to contact with an inner portion of an air conditioning case. In addition, it is necessary to perform an additional sealing process and the air conditioning case is made in a complicated way compared to the structure of applicant's claims.

Claims 6-8, rejected on Kamiya et al. in combination with Ozeki et al. (US 2002/0084058A1), is patentable for the same reasons advanced for claim 1 because Ozeki et al. does not cure the above noted deficiencies of Kamiya et al. vis a vis claim 1.

Allowance is in order.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN HAM & BERNER, LLP

/Allan M. Lowe/

Allan M. Lowe
Registration No. 19,641

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile
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AML/cjf